

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1-20 are pending on the application. In the Office Action dated Feb. 22, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,215,857 ("Kasiviswanathan") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,044,259 ("Hentila") and U.S. Pat. No. 5,278,897 ("Mowery").

II. The Proposed Combinations Do Not Render Claim 1 Unpatentable

Independent claim 1 recites a supplementary service processor operative to generate a query to a supplementary service database to determine whether the central office switch supports a supplementary service and to determine whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier. Kasiviswanathan, Hentila, and Mowery fail to teach this element.

The Examiner has stated that "Kasiviswanathan in view of Hentila fails to teach to determine [sic] whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier." (See Office Action dated Feb. 22, 2008, page 4). Accordingly, the proposed combination of Kasiviswanathan and Hentila necessarily fails to teach generating a query to a supplementary service database to determine both whether a central office switch supports a supplementary service and whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier.

Like Kasiviswanathan and Hentila, Mowery also fails to teach the element. Mowery is directed to systems and methods for providing smart internodal transfer for subscriber access in multimode voice messaging. Mowery discloses a database to provide information regarding whether an accessed node is a home node for a subscriber, to provide password validation information, and to provide subscriber information such as subscriber mailbox information and subscriber accesses type.

The Examiner has asserted that Mowery teaches determining whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier. Applicants respectfully submit that determining whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier is not the same as generating a query to a supplementary database to

determine both whether a central office switch supports a supplementary service and whether a user has access to voicemail service based on a caller identifier.

Because Kasiviswanathan, Hentila, and Mowery fail to teach a supplementary service processor operative to generate a query to a supplementary service database to determine whether the central office switch supports a supplementary service and to determine whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier, the proposed combinations of Kasiviswanathan, Hentila, and Mowery necessarily do not render independent claim 1, or any claim that depends on claim 1, unpatentable.

III. The Proposed Combinations Do Not Render Claim 11 Unpatentable

Independent claim 11 recites determining whether a central office switch supports a supplementary service based on a message sequence and a supplementary service database, and determining whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier and the supplementary service database. In claim 11, the supplementary service database is used to determine both whether a central office switch supports a supplementary service and whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier. As discussed above in conjunction with claim 1, the proposed combinations of Kasiviswanathan, Hentila, and Mowery fail to teach this element.

Because Kasiviswanathan, Hentila, and Mowery fails to teach at least determining whether a central office switch supports a supplementary service based on a message sequence and a supplementary service database, and determining whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier and the supplementary service database, the combinations of Kasiviswanathan, Hentila, and Mowery as contemplated by the Examiner do not render claim 11, or any claim that depends on claim 11, unpatentable.

IV. The Proposed Combinations Do Not Render Claim 16 Unpatentable

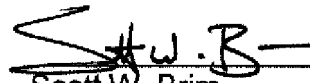
Independent claim 16 recites generating a query to a supplementary service database in response to receiving a message sequence to determine whether the central office switch supports a supplementary service based on whether a service code

is present in the n-digit message sequence and to determine whether the user has access to the voicemail service based on a caller identifier. As discussed above in conjunction with claim 1, Kasiviswanthan, Hentila, and Mowery fail to teach generating a query to a database to determine both whether a central office supports a supplementary service and whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier. For at least this reason, the proposed combinations of Kasiviswanthan, Hentila, and Mowery necessary do not render independent claim 16, or any claim that depends on claim 16, unpatentable.

V. Conclusion

Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any questions concerning this Response, the Examiner is asked to phone the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott W. Brim
Registration No. 51,500
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200